

REMARKS

The specification was amended to correct a few typographical errors. Support for the corrections can be found in the specification as filed.

The claims were amended to reflect the election of claims 1-9 in the accompanying Response to Restriction Requirement; the withdrawal of claims 19-30, but in a non-elected status for purposes of rejoinder with an allowable product claim; and cancellation of claims 10-18. Claims 19-27 were amended to be dependent on one of claims 1-9. Thus, the withdrawn process claims 19-30 otherwise include all of the limitations of the product claims from which they depend. M.P.E.P. §821.04 states that in view of the rejoinder procedure, and in order to expedite prosecution, applicants are encouraged to present claims directed to the process of making and/or using the patentable product, preferably as dependent claims, in the application at an *early stage of prosecution*. Accordingly, per the helpful reminder of the Examiner concerning the rejoinder process, and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.121 (c)(2), claims 19-27 are both withdrawn and currently amended, and therefore, appropriately identified as "(withdrawn-currently amended)".

No new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments. Applicants believe no fee is due with this Amendment and Response. If, however, it is determined appropriately that a fee is due with this Amendment and Response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 502170. The Examiner is respectfully encouraged to telephone the undersigned if I can be of assistance to further the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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